

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 07832 281518Z

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S E C R E T VIENNA 7832

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SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR ISSUE

REF: STATE 205596

1. AS YOU ARE AWARE, IT WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT TO GIVE AGENCY AS MUCH LEAD TIME AS POSSIBLE IF THEY ARE EXPECTED TO ACT REPIDLY AND EFFECTIVELY. WHILE I WILL OF COURSE AWAIT AUTHORIZATION BEFORE CONSULTING AGENCY IN ANY WAY, DEPARTMENT SHOULD KNOW THAT DG EKLUND IS IN SWEDEN UNTIL SEPTEMBER 9 AND DDG HALL IS ACTING DG UNTIL HIS RETURN. GIVEN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH HALL (U.S.), I AM COMPLETELY CONFIDENT I COULD DISCUSS SUCH A SENSITIVE ISSUE AS THIS WITG HIM AND COUNT ON HIM TO HOLD INFORMATION PERSONALLY AND ONLY INFORM DG AT SUCH TIME AS DEPARTMENT PREPARED HAVE HIM INFORMED. IN SAYING FOREGOING I AM NOT REPEAT NOT SEEKING AUTHORIZATION INFORM HALL ANY EARLIER THAN DEPARTMENT MAY WISH HIM INFORMED; I ONLY WANT DEPARTMENT TO BE FULLY ADVISED OF SITUATION.

2. FOLLOWING ARE MY JUDGMENTS REQUESTED REFTEL AND KEYED TO LETTERED PARAGRAPHS IN PARA 3.

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A. I WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE ANY RELUCTANCE FOR POLITICAL REASONS. MOST AGENCY STAFF CONSIDER RECENT BG ACTION AS CONTRARY TO STATUTE AND IN ANY EVENT UNRELATED TO ITS SAFEGUARDS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. THERE WOULD LIKELY BE SOME RELUCTANCE ON PARA OF TECHNICAL STAFF, HOWEVER, FOR TECHNICAL REASONS, I.E., IAEA HAS

NEVER SAFEGUARDED ANY TYPE OF ENRICHMENT PLANT BEFORE AND HAS FEW IF ANY DETAILED TECHNICAL PROCEDURES OR TECHNIQUES AVAILABLE FOR THAT PURPOSE. FROM A TECHNICAL STANDPOINT, THEREFORE, IAEA SAFEGUARDS STAFF WOULD LIKELY BE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT BEING ABLE TO DO THE JOB WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE AND TIME CONSUMING PREPARATORY WORK.

B. YES, GIVEN SUFFICIENT TIME FOR PREPARATORY WORK.

C. SOME FORM OF SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR APPLYING SAFEGUARDS. DEPENDING ON WHAT THE QUOTE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS UNQUOTE WILL CONSIST OF, SOME OTHER RELATIONSHIP MIGHT BE CONSIDERED, I.E., SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT INVITE AGENCY TO PARTICIPATE QUOTE ON SITE UNQUOTE IN DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDS PROCEDURES. AS DEPARTMENT NOTES, THIS WOULD NOT BE QUOTE SAFEGUARDS, UNQUOTE BUT IT COULD RESULT IN AN AGENCY PRESENCE. AGENCY COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR QUOTE EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDS UNQUOTE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS MADE AND PROCEDURES DEVELOPED FOR SAFEGUARDING THE VALINDABA PLANT.

D. A SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WOULD REQUIRE BOARD APPROVAL. LAST BG SET A DEADLINE OF TWO WEEKS BEFORE
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BG MEETING FOR CIRCULATION OF TEXTS OF SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS. NEXT BG MEETINGS ARE SPETEMBER 23 AND OCTOBER 3 AND THEN NOT UNTIL FEBRUARY 1978. SPECIAL BG MEETING COULD BE CONSIDERED.

E. PROVIDED SAG WISHED INVITE IAEA THERE COULD BE AGENCY PRESENCE. AS NOTED IN C ABOVE AND IN REFTL, THIS COULD BE JOINT EXERCISE TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDS PROCEDURES OR SOME OTHER MUTUALLY AGREED ARRANGEMENT. SAG COOPERATION WOLD BE ESSENTIAL TO ACCOMPLISH THIS.

F. IF IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION WITH ANY CERTAINTY WITHOUT COUNSULTING THE AGENCY SINCE I AM UNAWARE OF THEIR PRECISE MANPOWER SITUATION OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. IN PRINCIPLE, HOWEVER, THERE SHOULD BE NO MAJOR PROBLEM PROVIDED SUFFICIENT STAFF ARE AVAILABLE.

G. SINCE CREDIBLE SAFEGUARDS ARE SO HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON POLITICAL AND PROCEDURAL CONSIDERATIONS, IT IS IMPRACTICAL TO ASSESS AGENCY'S CAPABILITY IN THIS RESPECT.

H. I WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE ANY INSURMOUNTABLE
PROBLEMS IN CONNECTION WITH COMPOSITION OF IAEA
INSPECTION TEAMS, PROVIDED THAT AGENCY HAS SUFFICIENT TIME
TO COPE WITH POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES
THROUGH INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS. STONE

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